



Domestic Sewage Exclusion

Technical Information Memorandum

Publication #94-136

Background

The Department of Ecology amended the Dangerous Waste Regulations, Chapter 173-303 WAC, regarding the Domestic Sewage Exclusion in December 1993. Prior to these recent amendments, the Dangerous Waste Regulations did not allow any dangerous waste to be discharged to publicly owned treatment works (POTW), even wastes which were treatable in a POWT. The amended exclusion provides generators another option for managing wastes which are known, or shown to be treatable.

The Domestic Sewage Exclusion

The Domestic Sewage Exclusion allows dangerous wastes to be discharged to a POTW only when such wastes are treatable at a POTW, and the discharger has a permit which authorizes the discharge of certain wastes described in the permit. The waste is only excluded from the Dangerous Waste Regulations after it enters the sanitary sewer system.

This exclusion relieves the generator from delivering their waste to a permitted dangerous waste treatment, storage, or disposal facility, and from counting the waste. All other generator requirements found in WAC 173-33-170 thru WAC 173-303-230 still apply, including proper waste designation, on-site accumulation standards, record keeping, and annual reporting. These standards are uniformly applied to all dangerous waste generators regardless of whether the waste is disposed, treated, or recycled, either on-site or off-site.

Permit Writers

Publicly Owned Treatment Works which have a delegated pretreatment program write discharge permits or letters of authorization for businesses discharging into their system. See pages 4 for a list of delegated programs and contact numbers.

Ecology's Water Quality Program writes discharge permits for generators who discharge waste to a POTW which does not have a delegated pretreatment program.

Permit Considerations

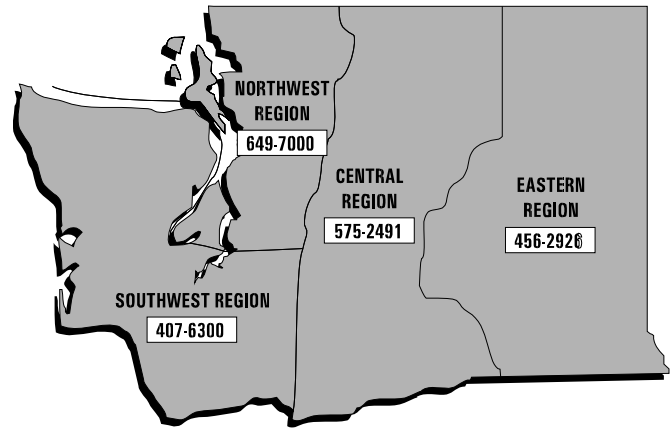
A primary consideration for the permit writers will be whether or not the waste is treatable. Permit writers will also be concerned with the following items:

- Complying with pretreatment standards,
- Protecting the health and safety of POTW personnel,
- Protecting the treatment plant upset,
- Protecting the collection system from interference,
- Preventing pollutants from passing into the receiving waters without treatment,
- Protecting the quality of the biosolids (a solid by-product resulting from the treatment of wastewater) sent for use or disposal.
- Promoting waste reduction and recycling whenever feasible.

POTWs may not be willing to receive wastes if recycling options exist for that waste. POTWs clearly have the authority to refuse wastes which can be recycled. The permit writers may prohibit discharges of dangerous waste in cases where recycling options exist.

Office for information on how to obtain a discharge permit.

Generators should be aware that they will be charged a fee when applying for a discharge permit. In addition, testing of the discharge on a regular basis may be required, and the discharger may be visited by an inspector from Ecology and/or the POTW.



Northwest Regional Office (425) 649-7201

Southwest Regional Office (360) 407-6280

Central Regional Office (509) 575-2680

Eastern Regional Office (509) 456-2874

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If you special accommodation needs or require this document in alternative format, please contact Dave Dubreuil (360) 407-6721 (Voice) or (360) 407-6006 (TDD).